



# MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 10

DEPT.: Community Planning and Development Services /

DATE PREPARED:

STAFF CONTACT: Margaret Hall

FOR MEETING OF: June 6, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to Planning Commission to Rename North Maryland Avenue and Newmarket Streets

**RECOMMENDATION:** Direct staff to provide Mayor and Council recommendation to the Planning Commission to:

- 1) Rename North Maryland Avenue to Maryland Avenue, from Middle Lane to Beall Avenue
- 2) Rename Newmarket Street to Frog Run Lane

**DISCUSSION:** The naming of City streets is a Planning Commission responsibility. However, the street names in Town Center are very important to the Mayor and Council and have been discussed at several points in the redevelopment project.

## North Maryland Avenue to Maryland Avenue

RD Rockville has requested that Maryland Avenue not change names to North Maryland Avenue, between Middle Lane to Beall Avenue. Staff has reviewed the numbering of Maryland Avenue as it is extended from Middle Lane to Beall and ultimately to Dawson extended. The numbering along Maryland Avenue is not continuous from beginning to end. This is due to the fact that what is now known as Maryland Avenue was once Maryland Avenue, West Maryland Avenue and South Perry Street. When the entire length of roadway was changed to Maryland Avenue, the house numbers were not changed, resulting in the inconsistent numbering pattern. There would be no duplication in block or house numbers if the street were renamed Maryland Avenue and the new blocks between East Middle Lane and eventually Dawson Avenue were assigned numbers in the 20 and 30 range. It is, however, possible that at a future date some of the addresses along existing Maryland Avenue may need to be changed in order to accommodate development.

## Newmarket Street to Frog Run Lane

The Mayor and Council have expressed a desire for this new street to have a distinctive name. Frog Run is the creek that ran through the area when it was originally settled but portions of it were moved underground as development occurred. The final remaining stretch of the creek has been moved underground by the Town Center Project. While the initial naming of Frog Run is not known, it has been in use for well over 100 years. Adopting the creek's name for a street in Town Center would allow "Frog Run" to live on. This name has been approved by Montgomery County and meets its naming convention of two word street names.

The other names discussed in the past are included in the memo attached on circle 3.

**Options Considered:** The Mayor and Council and the Planning Commission considered a variety of names for Newmarket Street (see attachment 1 on circle 3).

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Boards and Commissions Review:** Planning Commission is charged with naming City streets. This item will be placed on the Planning Commission's June 22, 2005 agenda.

**Next Steps:** Planning Commission action on June 22, 2005.

**PREPARED BY:**

*Anthony Charles*

**APPROVED BY:**

*SM/UY*

*6/02/05*

**DATE:**

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:**

Memorandum with List of Considered Names and Background on Cairo



City of Rockville

## MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2004

TO: Scott Ullery,  
City Manager

VIA: Arthur D. Chambers, AICP *ADC*  
Community Planning and Development Services Director

FROM: Robert J. Spalding, AICP *RJS*  
Chief of Planning

SUBJECT: Newmarket Street - List of Considered Names and Background Memo on Cairo Street

During the December 6, 2004 Mayor and Council meeting, staff was requested to provide the list of names that were considered for Newmarket Street (Attachment 1) and background information on the former Cairo Street (Attachment 2).

In addition, the Mayor and Council would like to identify a street name that has a more direct association with Town Center's history. The Mayor and Council would then respectfully request that the Planning Commission reconsider the street name for Newmarket Street.

Attachments (2)

cc: Planning Commission  
Don Briggs  
Scott Ross  
Jack Jaeger

ATTACHMENT 1  
(CONSIDERED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION - 8/11/4)

The County has reviewed a list of suggested street names for the new street in the Town Square, currently designated as Commerce Street. The Planning Commission, at the time of approval of the plats for the Town Square, requested that the street name be brought back for reconsideration. Below is the street name list. The first section is the list of County-approved names. The second section is the list of names rejected by the County. These are generally rejected because they either reproduce current names, or sound very much like existing names. Also, street names should not be more than 14 characters long.

Approved Names

Artisan  
Artista  
Arts Place  
Bistro  
Brewer  
Cairo  
Dollar Drive  
Exchange (conditional, there are a North and South Exchange Courts in Potomac)  
Firefighter  
Free Market Way  
Hometown  
Investigator  
New Exchange (conditional)  
Penny Saver Place  
Revenant  
Taggart

Disapproved Names

Agora  
Avenue of the Arts  
Book Street  
Bridge Street  
Chief  
Commerce — Already a Commerce Lane in Bethesda  
Easy Street (already one in P.G. County; the sign routinely gets stolen)  
Eureka  
Library Way  
Mercado Way  
Milo  
Newmarket St. (too close to New Mark Esplanade)  
North Market Street  
Town Square Place  
Valentine's Garden (too long)  
Volunteer  
West Street

8/10/4



City of Rockville

## MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2004

TO: Bob Spalding, Chief of Planning

FROM: Judy Christensen, Preservation Planner

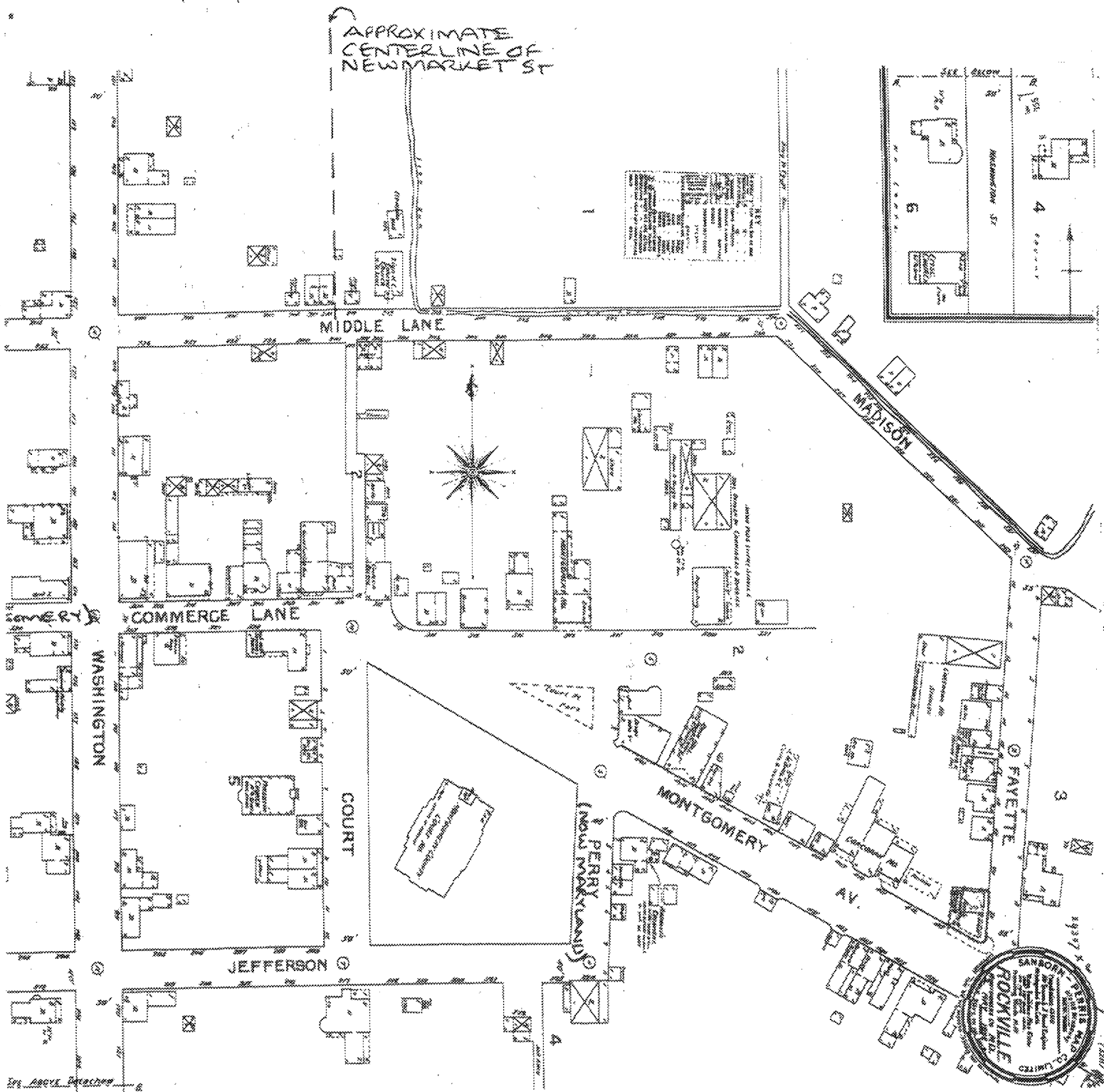
SUBJECT: Historical background of Cairo Street

The street that became known as Cairo Street and the "Ethiopian Hall" were found as early as 1892 on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Rockville on Middle Lane. (See Attached 1892 map.) They were located just to the east of the proposed extension of Maryland Avenue, formerly known as Perry Street. (See attached 1960 map.) Ethiopian Hall was a meeting hall associated with the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church. Clinton was founded by free African Americans in Rockville sometime after 1867. It first met in members' homes then built a timber and frame church and hall on Middle Lane in 1890. In 1904, the congregation built a more substantial brick church building at the corner of Beall Avenue and North Washington Street in Town Center.

Ethiopianism was a product of Reverend Edward W. Blyden, LL.D., a native of the Virgin Islands of African descent who came to the U.S. for theological training in 1850 and was refused entry to a school. He immigrated to Liberia where he was educated and ordained. He was the editor of the *Liberian Herald* and Professor of Classics at Liberia College. He later served the country as Liberia Secretary of State, Minister of Interior and as an Ambassador. His message was that Africa, and Africans, were the cradle of civilization and should be recognized as such. He emphasized that persons of African descent have a proud heritage. He spoke world wide, including a speech presented at the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. on February 16, 1890. His publications include "*Christianity, Islam and the Negro Race*" and "*The African Problem*."

Rockville's "Ethiopian Hall" and the street name "Alley to Egypt Row" in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century in an African American area of Rockville undoubtedly stem from Blyden's thesis. The name "Cairo" probably preserved the earlier Egyptian reference. Cairo Street, Ethiopian Hall and the Alley to Little Egypt all refer to Blyden's teachings and indicate pride in African heritage, at a time when the social conditions of the time did not permit the skills and intelligence of African Americans to be fully recognized or utilized.

Attachments: 1892 Sanborn Map  
1960 Sanborn Map



APPROXIMATE  
CENTERLINE  
OF  
NEWMARKET ST

1960

ROCKVILLE, MD  
JUNE 1948

3

